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THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

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"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (LUKE 2: 13, 14).

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YOUTH AND CRIME*

ELDER JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

IN BEARING TESTIMONY OF THE TRUTH THIS AFTERNOON I trust I may be led by the Spirit of the Lord to say something that will be helpful and edifying at least to members of the Church.

As we have been informed, this is a continuation of the Conference of the Liberty Stake, the first session having been held this morning. At that session some things were said to which I desire to revert. One of the speakers endeavonred to impress on our minds the need of a home evening. That is to say, in the homes of the Latter-day Saints it is generally the custom to set apart one evening each week as a home evening, and on that night attention is given to spiritual study and the consideration of other things that may be deemed of importance to the members of the family. All are expected to be home at that time to receive the instruction.

In the course of his remarks the speaker this morning called attention to the fact that in the prisons throughout our land, many of those who are serving terms are boys, young men scarcely out of their teens, and this to a very alarming extent. He made the plea in behalf of Latter-day Saints that children ought to be protected from the evils abroad by the observance of this home evening, and by proper training in the home. Although I think he may have done so very properly, he refrained from stating any of the causes why these young people are found guilty and have to be punished for crime. However, I feel that this is a

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topic worthy of consideration and therefore desire to express some of my views in relation to it. My object is to impress further upon the hearts of the members of the Church the necessity of looking after their children and guiding and protecting them in the truth.

MOST CRITICAL AGE

I am convinced that we are living in the most critical age in the history of this nation in respect to the moral and spiritual conditions of the people. I am not thinking of the nation's financial matters, not of business, not of matters of government, but of the conditons prevailing to-day in the social world and in the homes of many of the people, which are soul-destroying. Bishop Sylvester Q. Cannon has called our attention to the tendency among men towards selfishness and personal interests, and he prayed that the time would soon come when men would love their neighbours as themselves. That time is bound to come because, when Christ reigns, men must love their neighbours and be unselfish and seek to promote the welfare of their fellow men. If they will not they shall not remain here, for this earth is to be cleansed and the ungodly shall be as stubble, we are informed, and shall be removed from the face of the earth; for under conditions as they shall exist then wickedness could not endure for there shall be one thousand years of peace and righteousness. I stand here as a witness of the truth; not only in defense of the principles of the Gospel, but as a witness for Christ, to testify that He lives, and that His Gospel, with the authority of the Priesthood, is restored for the salvation of men. This has come to pass through the opening of the heavens and the coming of angels who restored the Priesthood that the Church of Jesus Christ might again be found on the earth as it existed in primitive days.

I have been thinking of the following Scripture:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

"Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Tim. 3:1-4).

I believe that time is now and that Paul who wrote it spoke by the spirit of revelation from God, for our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, know all things, even the end from the beginning, therefore they revealed to Paul what would be in these latter days.

CAUSE OF STUMBLING

As I stated, I desire to present a few thoughts regarding the conditions which place in our jails and our penitentiaries so many

boys. First and foremost—and I will be very plain about it—it is due to a Godless education. This is the foundation stone of stumbling—an education in which God is removed, in which the intellect is appealed to, the heart not touched and the soul forgotten. The young men come out of school with much learning, but not with the knowledge of the truth that saves—faith in God and love for their fellow men—because these fundamental truths which make for the stability of the government and good citizenship have been excluded from their education. And what is left, with these essential truths removed, is but the husks of education, I care not how great the knowledge is that a man may obtain. In my judgment this is the main cause for the present evil condition and this condition will continue to be so long as men are so instructed.

Another thing that tends in the direction of crime is the lack of reverence for sacred things and rejection of the writings of the prophets. The great ten commandments, known and spoken of as the decalog, are, to a great extent, treated as a joke and only suited to the generations past when men were filled with superstition and ignorance. Yet the observance of them is fundamental to the integrity and perpetuity of any nation.

Men have not only forgotten God and to love their neighbours as themselves, which are the two great commandments, but they have forgotten all the rest of these great commandments, to a very large degree. Men are lovers of self more than lovers of God, seeking their own pleasure at the sacrifice of all that is sacred in the world. Sacred ties are too easily broken, and contracts are disregarded when personal interests are at stake. The marriage covenant, which should be considered the most holy union in the world, is looked on as merely a civil contract to be discontinued at will, or when either or both of the contracting parties desire to enter into some other union. Thus homes are destroyed and children thrown upon a disinterested and unsympathetic world, with love of parents gone forever. Virtue is not respected or honoured, and like most everything else is made to yield to money.

THE SABBATH DAY

There is one more cause which stands out most prominently and affects the entire nation, and that is the violation of the Sabbath day, which day now has become quite generally a day of pleasure, with here and there a very few still holding out for the observance of the Lord's day. Even this holy day is commercialised through the greed of men and the desire of men for pleasure. This wave of immorality—for that is what it is—has swept over the nation until to-day the Sabbath, which has been set apart by the Lord as a day in which He should be worshiped, has almost entirely been forgotten.

Children are raised under these influences both in the home and in the school. And in the wake of all this has come the Sunday moving picture shows, the Sunday baseball games, picnics to the public parks and private resorts. Nor do the children go to such places alone. Parents go to all these places and take their children on the Sabbath day, and thus teach them from the cradle to disregard the solemn commandments of the Lord. Naturally when children grow up they are disobedient to their parents and ungrateful, as their parents have been to their parent—even God. When parents have trained their children in disobedience they grow to manhood and womanhood without natural affection and the love of truth and righteousness, or at least these principles are not observed with the same care and attention that otherwise would be the case. Denial of the power of God is a natural sequence of conditions of this kind.

TO CRY REPENTANCE

There are many other causes, but these stand out like mountain peaks. The seeking of pleasure and the coveting of the things of the world, the search for excitement, the waste of means extravagantly, all lead to dishonesty and the committing of crime.

These are reasons why so many young men are found incarcerated in jails paying the price of crime that never would have been committed if the training had been according to Bible teachings and the revelations of the Lord. I realise this is plain speaking, but it does us good. We do not get enough of it and a little of it once in a while will be very helpful.

My mission is to cry repentance. I have not been sent among the people to laud them only for their good deeds. I am just as ready as any man to give praise for the good things and the virtues of the people and to encourage them in well doing and will go just as far as anyone else in this direction, but as a watchman on the towers of Zion it is my place and my duty to point out the pitfalls, that the people may see them and thus avoid them.

My mind again reverts to something in the Scriptures, to the time of ancient Israel. When the Israelites were about to cross the Jordan and enter into the land of promise the Lord, through Moses, gave them some very timely instruction. They were already in the land of their inheritance, but had not been privileged to cross over the Jordan and take possession of the goodly land the Lord had in store for them. Before this privilege was granted the Lord said to them:

"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord:

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart."

OF ALL THE PEOPLE

That is the trouble with the people to-day, they have not kept these things in their hearts. I am not speaking of the Latter-day Saints, but of all the people of this great nation. The Lord continues:

"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

"And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

"And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates" (Deut. 6:4-9).

Why was this to be done? That they might be constantly before the people and constantly taught to their children.

Here in the stakes of Zion we have one night each week as a home night. Why? Because usually the members of the Church are kept so busy in Church duties most of the other nights, and in order that one night may be free and training provided for in the home, this home night has been adopted. In ancient Israel, however, where, I suppose, their duties did not require so much of their time as is required of us to-day, every night was a home night, and every day was a home day, so far as instruction in the things of God were concerned. Remember the Lord said unto them: "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

BINDING TO-DAY

If they had followed these instructions the Lord gave them, they would have kept before them constantly these great commandments.

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might"—a thing that is considered to-day by a great many of the people worth only to be relegated to the ages past. This is just as much the commandment—and the greatest commandment of all—to-day, as it was when Moses wrote it. It is not a part of the law of Moses, but of the law of God. Its observance is required just as much to-day as at any other time in the history of the world. Many people have discarded the Old Testament entirely—in fact, some have discarded all Scripture—but this law was just as good in the days of Adam and in force as it was in the day of Moses and is binding on all the people to-day.

The Lord reiterated it to the Latter-day Saints in the following words:

"Wherefore, I give unto them"—that is to you and to me—"a com-

mandment, saying thus: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy might, mind and strength; and in the name of Jesus Christ thou shalt serve him.

"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Thou shalt not steal; neither commit adultery, nor kill, nor do anything like unto it.

"Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things.

"Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness, even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

"And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day;

"For verily this is a day appointed unto you to rest from your labours, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High" (D. & C. 59: 5-10).

THE WORD OF THE LORD

This is the word of the Lord to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, spoken by the mouth of Jesus Christ to Joseph Smith, and it is just as much a revelation, just as much the word of God, as that word which I read to you from the book of Deuteronomy. Moreover it is binding on all the world. The world may discard it, and they will; but they will be judged by it and the other revelations given through Joseph Smith, for they have been attested by witnesses sent of God in His own appointed way, and are thus made binding upon all peoples everywhere.

"Hearken", said the Lord in a revelation in our day, "O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say: Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.

"For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated.

"And the rebellious shall be pierced with much sorrow; for their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed" (D. & C. 1: 1-3).

The Lord continues in this revelation to call attention first to the Church and then to the nations of the earth and all who are afar off that He has spoken by the mouths of His servants and has proclaimed His word for the salvation of men. He declares His word to be faithful and true and that it shall be fulfilled.

I bear witness to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that His words shall be fulfilled, and the ungodly, in the due time of the Lord, shall not be found, for the day is coming when this earth is to be cleansed from wickedness. Righteousness is to prevail and only those who are contrite of heart and willing to observe the commandments of God shall be privileged to remain. So say the Scriptures. Read the twenty-fourth chapter of Isaiah; read the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew and many others of the revelations of the Lord, spoken in person or by His prophets; read

His word to Malachi, and then reflect upon them, for verily they shall be fulfilled.

I pray that we may keep His commandments and walk in paths of righteousness, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

AT YULETIDE

'Tis Christmas time! Now shines the golden glory
Of "Peace on earth and to all men good will";
A myriad lips proclaim the old, old story
Of Him who gave His life on Calvary's hill.
O, Child of Bethlehem, in thy deep slumber
What visions of the future came to thee?
Was thy heart touched by joy-songs without number,
And saddened by the moans of misery?

O, men of wealth, the Yuletide bells are ringing,
Have ye not heard their echoes far and near?
In happy homes are merry children singing
The songs ye sang in childhood's yesteryear.
But do ye mark the sound of distant sobbing
Where other children beg for bread alone?
And weary mothers weep, their torn hearts throbbing
A prayer for food? Ah! will ye give a stone?

And ye who thrill with rosy health's fair blessing,
Have ye forgotten those on beds of pain,
Who never know the sunshine's soft caressing,
Nor feel the magic touch of gentle rain?
Will ye not send a simple Christmas greeting,
A smiling flower, a word of friendly cheer?
Ah, think how fast for you the days are fleeting!
For those who suffer they are long and drear.

O, Man of Sorrow, thou hast known the burden
Of grief and anguish in this vale of woe;
Let steadfast faith and trust now claim their guerdon
Of hope and peace to light the way we go.
Let thy compassion spread its benediction
O'er hearts that in the shadows here abide;
Touch with thy tender mercy their affliction,
That joy may come to them this Christmastide.

Harold Goff

We grow by overcoming; the force we conquer becomes our own. We rise on the difficulties we surmount. What opposes, arouses, strengthens, and disciplines the will, discloses to the mind its power, and implants faith in the efficacy of patient, persevering labour.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1925

EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS AND THE CHRIST

THE PRESENT CHRISTMAS is an anniversary of more than usual interest, and one of disturbing concern among the theologians. A wordy warfare between "fundamentalists" and "modernists" is in progress; and whether it has reached its height or not is yet to be seen. The one camp flies its banner of professed adherence to the ancient Scriptures, with varying degrees of literalness; the other exalts modern thought, human deduction, and what is sometimes falsely so-called—scholarship—above the letter of Sacred Writ, and displays the repnted flag of freedom, with a liberal intermixture of the colours of license.

The great issue is many centuries old; yet never has it been more challenging than to-day—WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST? WHOSE SON IS HE?

The question was put by the Saviour in person to the caviling Pharisees, who refused to acknowledge the Christ there present, and could give no better answer than that of their schools, that Christ was, or was to be, the son of David. Their ignorance of Scriptnre and prophecy called forth such a rejoinder that "no man was able to answer him a word". . . . Read Matt. 22: 41-46.

Churches and churchmen are facing the imperative demand for an answer. The historicity of Jesus of Nazareth is accepted in a broadly general way by individuals and organisations who have adopted the designation "Christian"; bnt in specific profession among these there is a wide range of belief and doctrine. In this profusion of opinions there are inconsistencies without stint.

Think of one extolling the high moral character, the snperb precepts, the profound doctrines of Jesus, yet denying His divinity, when Christ affirmed Himself to be the actnal Son of the Eternal Father! Such denial, if founded on fact, would relegate Jesus to the class of falsifiers and impostors. The brand of "scholarship" that can tolerate snch contradictions leads far afield from the path of wisdom.

And what of another who proclaims his belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ, yet accepts the contradictory doctrines of man-made sects, to the ignoring of the fundamental requirements laid down by the Lord, without compliance with which He solemnly avowed that no man can have place in the Kingdom of Heaven?

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST? WHOSE SON IS HE? The question will not down. Every soul must meet it. If Jesus was not, is not, the actual Son of the Eternal Father, where shall we find the Saviour of whom the race has stood in absolute need since the beginning of human history? No man, mortal in the complete and ordinary sense, could accomplish a vicarious atonement for the rest of mankind. That supreme achievement required the love-inspired service of One who had power to hold death in abeyance and eventually to subdue it.

Christ was the son of a mortal woman, and so by heredity acquired the capacity to die. But far from being the offspring of any mortal man, He was the Only Begotten Son of the Eternal Father, and, again by heredity, had power over death. Only when His appointed work in the flesh was gloriously finished did He permit Himself to die. None had the power to slay Him before His hour had come. Thus did He say of Himself:

> Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.
>
> No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.—John 10: 17, 18.

Surely the Christmastide is a fitting time for solemn thought and serious contemplation as to what, who, and whose son is Jesus of Nazareth. The season should not be wholly given up to gaiety, merrymaking, and physical feasting. Good reason have we to rejoice over the greatest and grandest event in human history—the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem—of which sublime occurrence Christmas is commemorative, the actual day having become so established by custom and human decree; nevertheless the spiritual significance of the time should not be obscured by unbecoming hilarity or bodily indulgence.

Let the time-honoured Christmas Tree shed forth its light and yield the fruit of innocent enjoyment and goodly giving, for this is the season of its ripening. But fail not to ponder its impressive symbolism. Our Lord said, speaking of Himself:

> I am the resurrection, and the *life*.
>
> I am the *light* of the world.
>
> Greater *love* hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Note the three outstanding attributes of the Saviour, each divine as He was divine: *life*, *light*, *love*.

For the Christmas Tree an evergreen is chosen; this typifies *life*.

The candles or prepared electric bulbs are manifestations of *light*.

The gifts that hang on the tree are expressive of *love*.

To the members of the Church in these Missions, to our numer-

ous friends, and to all others, we extend cordial greetings, with prayerful hope that this Christmas shall be the happiest of all thus far experienced.—J. E. T.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Inseparably connected with the present period of festivity—the Christmas time—is the spirit of giving, which is our best means of showing the good will we feel toward those we love. Young and old, rich and poor are alike imbued with the same thought—the desire to give.

The poorly clad waif on a dingy street surveys his scanty savings with an air of pride and ponders over his prospective purchases. So engrossed is he in thought and contemplation that for the moment he forgets the chilly wind that whistles through his ragged clothing and the cold flagstones that benumb his feet. In the anticipation of giving he is raised above the grim reality of life and lives amid the air castles of his fondest dreams.

In the ill-furnished cottage of the daily laborer the father and mother joyfully contrive ways of spending the Christmas budget so that all their children may be made happy. Their faces beam with gladness as they plan and scheme, for they "remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

In the comfortable homes of the well-to-do and in the palatial abodes of the wealthy there is an unusual atmosphere of expectancy. Elaborate preparations are made to fittingly observe the most joyful day of the year. Whispered messages are passed among the children and long letters dispatched to Father Christmas. The parents strive to make the coming Christmas more happy than any other that has passed, and in an effort to bring gladness to others spare neither time nor money. All this is done with unselfish purpose, to make others happy.

It matters little what the monetary value of gifts may be; it is the spirit in which they are given that makes them priceless. We may well consider the following incident in the life of the Saviour:

> Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.
>
> And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.
>
> And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:
>
> For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

The attitude of the one giving a present should be carefully

guarded if the real Christmas spirit is to be preserved, for "a man being evil can not do that which is good; for if he offereth a gift . . . except he shall do it with real intent it profiteth him nothing. . . . For behold, if a man being evil giveth a gift, he doeth it grudgingly; wherefore it is counted unto him the same as if he had retained the gift."

All men should strive for the Christmas spirit, which is the spirit of giving—the giving of happiness, good will, brotherly love and material gifts too, but these latter are among the least important.—JUNIUS S. ROMNEY.

A SOLID FOUNDATION

(*Concluded from page 806*)

THE PLAN OF LIFE

WHEN THE PROPHET JOSEPH explained why men are on earth he explained that the plan of life provides for the full development of man, the increase of his powers, the enlargement of his ability and the opportunity of exercising his inborn gifts. Man may grow, increase and progress, never standing still. His presence on earth is in harmony with a simple plan formulated by the Almighty, and accepted by us. Man was not driven to this earth; but has come because he accepted the plan. There is no chance in this great plan, except as the free agency of man may exercise itself. I hear it said that chance rules this earth: that men rise and fall, nations come and go, as a matter of chance. If I read the doctrines of this Church correctly, the governing hand of God is everywhere present, and men are brought up or destroyed by the will of the Master. He determines what is to be done. Even in the lesser things of life, if we could only understand clearly, I think we should observe the orderly procedure of the purposes of the Lord. All this, were it understood by the world, would help clarify the thoughts of men and remove the confusion of which I have been speaking here this afternoon.

ONLY BY OBEDIENCE

When the plan was formulated, relative to this earth and the coming of man upon it, a work was necessary for the completion of the plan which was assumed by our elder brother Jesus Christ. This Person, who came on earth some two thousand years ago, who has changed the thinking and the living of humanity, was indeed the Son of God, and we bear witness, not only because of the teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, but because of the revelation of God to us, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that only by adherence to His doctrines, by obedience to His will, and by the recognition and witness of His divinity, will man be able

to win for himself the satisfaction and joy, the salvation which God has promised His children. About the central figure of Jesus Christ the whole history of the world from the first day has revolved, and is revolving. Men can not settle the confusion of the world and the problems of to-day without recognising the existence and power and the place in the scheme of existence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Man-made foundations are insecure, and will be of little value when truth demands its own.

Men have wondered, throughout the years, about their ultimate destiny. To us all death will come unless the Lord issues a special mandate. The question has been: "What comes after death?" There again men have fallen from the truth. An hereafter has been pictured for the saved, near the throne of God, but without action or much purpose, a state of existing and praising the Father.

TO DO HIS WILL

It is well to praise the Father; but the Latter-day Saints believe that the best way to praise the Father is to do His will actively.

Then there has been pictured a hell into which the wicked will be thrown—an everlasting, burning hell, incomprehensible to the mind, incomprehensible to those who recognise the love of God for His children. Such conceptions of heaven and hell have scarcely passed away, they still rule among millions who call themselves Christians.

Yet nearly one hundred years ago the Prophet Joseph Smith came with his illuminating light, inspired and taught by his Father in Heaven, and declared that man continues to live after death, that only under the most extreme conditions will the individuality of man be destroyed, that life after death is an active form of life and not merely an existence. Life implies action, development, growth and progression.

Thus the world received a new picture of the hereafter, one which is stimulating beyond expression to every person who grasps it ever so little. Shall we have eternal existence? Yes. Eternal life? Yes. Eternal progression? Yes. And if to exist eternally, live eternally, and progress eternally, are conditioned upon the work man does upon this earth then humanity is stimulated as never before to mighty service, action and obedience, so that our future life may continue unbroken, onward, upward, without hindrance, to the great destiny pointed out and prepared by our Heavenly Father.

THE FOUNDATION STONES

These are simple doctrines to the Latter-day Saints, the A B C's of the Gospel; yet they are the foundation stones which must be accepted by the world before clearness can come into the confused thinking of the world. It is useless to expect that men will

agree, that the thoughts of men will follow the same channels, that there shall be agreement upon the fundamental things of life, until the world accepts the simple doctrines that lie at the foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, taught to Father Adam and to prophets down the ages, and revealed again, in these latter days, to the children of men. The mission of the Latter-day Saints, in the Salt Lake Stake of Zion and elsewhere, is to teach these fundamental doctrines, and those derived from them that may be applied more directly in human life. This must be done to the end that all the world may be brought to a knowledge of the truth, that all may enjoy the happiness that comes from an understanding of the truth.

The possession of truth, as I have already said, brings happiness. The want of truth brings unhappiness. Truth brings clearness, light and vision. Men rise above themselves in the presence of truth; while untruth depresses men and brings darkness into human hearts, until the burdens of life seem oppressive. We are a light-hearted people, a people full of joy, a singing people, a people loving our fellow men, a people amongst whom there is little of pessimism, but who are filled with peace and hope because truth is our possession.

TO BE WHOLLY EFFECTIVE

Let it be remembered that the doctrines we have discussed concerning the existence of the Lord, the Saviourship of Jesus Christ, the nature of man, the meaning of earth-life, the destiny of man, and all else that may be known concerning the Gospel has little or no value to the human race unless the principles and ordinances, which form the framework of the Gospel, are accepted and practiced. Obedience to the simple principles, practices and ordinances of the Church is a requisite if the door is to be opened by which we may enjoy, in a full measure, the results that may be won from the light-giving truths of which we have spoken this afternoon. Faith, repentance, baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost form the foundation by which the truths of the Gospel may be wholly effective in human life.

I must have faith, not merely knowledge. I must know; but I need not obtain that knowledge by the use of the scale pan of the chemist or the telescope of the astronomer. Such are after all clumsy means of discovering truth. Much has been done by the use of such devices; but there are greater means. The spiritual forces and powers of man give us the greater truths, the greater convictions.

President Brigham Young explained the matter. He was a student of the Scriptures, an intelligent man, quite a reader, as we have discovered in studying his history. He was fond of talking religion. In his youth he sought truth, and discussed religion with many men. He could not satisfy himself until two

or three "Mormon" elders, preachers of the Gospel, bore testimony to him. They converted Brigham Young and brought him into the waters of baptism, persuaded him to yield obedience to principles that constitute the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In one of his sermons Brigham Young related the incident. Hear his account:

"If all the talent, tact, wisdom and refinement of the world had been sent to me with the Book of Mormon and had declared, in the most exalted of earthly eloquence, the truth of it, undertaking to prove it by learning and worldly wisdom, they would have been to me like the smoke which arises only to vanish away. But when I saw a man without eloquence, or talent for public speaking, who could only say: 'I know by the power of the Holy Ghost that the Book of Mormon is true, that Joseph Smith is a prophet of the Lord', the Holy Ghost proceeding from that individual illuminated my understanding, and light, glory and immortality were before me. I was encircled by them, filled with them, and I knew for myself that the testimony of that man was true."

At the end of his discourse, President Young pointed to a man in the audience and said: "There he sits, Brother Miller, the man who baptised me. You know he is not an eloquent man; you know he is not a learned man; but he spoke by the power of the Holy Ghost, and the Holy Ghost bore witness to me. I knew and I know that this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

THE HIGHER MEANS

That is the higher means of obtaining knowledge; and the only manner by which full and complete certainty may enter into the hearts of men with regard to divine things. We want all the learning of the world. Yes, all of it, and we wish to use it; but we want more than that—the power to communicate with our Father, through His Holy Spirit, to be able to win for ourselves the unshakable, irrevocable testimony of the truth of the things that have been revealed to us in these latter days through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

It was said that "They have eyes and they see not; they have ears and they hear not." I wonder if one meaning is not that they have eyes, but will see only the material things of life, when the spiritual visions are the greater. They have ears, but will hear only material sounds, when the spiritual sounds are more important.

My time is gone. I bear you my testimony that the Prophet Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, that he taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in its purity, simplicity and fullness. I bear you my testimony that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and that He came upon this earth in obedience to the great plan to do the work He had undertaken for man, and that we must render Him

obedience. I bear witness of the existence of Almighty God, our Father. All men must yield obedience to Him, recognise His existence and His power, if eternal salvation, life and progression are to be won. I am grateful for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for Joseph Smith the prophet, for the men who have succeeded him, for the men who to-day stand at the head of this Church and for the faithful members of the Church everywhere. I thank God that the testimony of the truth of this work has entered my soul and the souls of thousands and tens of thousands of Latter-day Saints. I pray that God may bless us, and make us able, in this day of confusion, in this day of many views, many thoughts, to walk straight, clearly, easily, following the simple truths that have been outlined to us in these latter days by the servants of the Most High. I ask it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE NEWCASTLE CONFERENCE

The members of the Church residing in the Newcastle District met in conference at Sunderland on December 6th. In a dramatic way the Sunday Schools treated the theme, "Why I am a Latter-day Saint." Sister May Booth Talmage spoke on the significance of Christmas, and urged that the people develop the spirit of helpful giving. Addresses were also given during the first session by Elders Godfrey Holmes, Lathael Fryer and Gordon P. Owen.

In the afternoon meeting President James M. Armstrong of the Newcastle Conference gave a spirited and encouraging report of the work done in the district since the last conference and urged the maintenance of unity, cooperation and service. Presidents Alvarus H. Parry and Alex Reed Moss and Elder Charles A. Halverson of the Manchester, Nottingham and Newcastle Conferences, respectively, dwelt on some phase of Church organisation and the completeness provided for the education of members of the Church in the things of God. Mission President James E. Talmage affirmed that their is great need for peacemakers in the world to-day, and admonished members of the Church to live in harmony and unity together and not permit enmity or strife to have place among them.

President Reginald F. Beames of the Hull Conference and the following Traveling Elders of the Newcastle Conference, at the evening session, gave faith-inspiring testimonies of the joy obtained by living the teachings of the Gospel: Floyd C. Stuart, George A. Adamson, Jesse R. Smith, Vard W. Meadows, Eugene H. Hall and Wilford L. Hansen. Sister Talmage spoke on the various slogans of the Mutual Improvement Associations and showed how they had been productive of much good. She emphasised the slogan for this year—"We stand for an individual

testimony of the divinity of Jesus Christ"—and exhorted each member of the Church to acquire such a testimony through study and prayer.

Speaking on the subject "What After Death?" President Talmage defined the mortal life of man as but one stage in the course of eternal progression, and said that death, when it comes in a natural way and timely is but a transition to an advanced stage. Everlasting advancement is the order of the children of God, he said, and a person will be judged not for what he has but for what he is, in the life to come.

JESSE R. SMITH, Conference Clerk

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Doings in the Conferences: *Manchester*—A general priesthood meeting of the conference was held in Manchester on December 5th; Elder James K. Knudson gave a talk on "The Relation of the Gospel to the Condition of the World." A meeting of the Missionary Elders was also held in Manchester on the same day.

Norwich—A meeting of the Missionary Elders was held on December 5th at Lowestoft.

Nottingham—A farewell social was held in the Nottingham Branch on November 23rd in honour of President Boyd H. Ririe who has been transferred to the Scottish Conference. The Missionary Elders met together on November 26th in Nottingham in a missionary meeting.

Ulster—On December 1st the Missionaries of the conference held a missionary meeting. A conference union meeting was held in Belfast on December 3rd.

DEATH

DYSON—Margaret Annie Dyson, infant daughter of Brother and Sister William J. Dyson of the Sparkbrook Branch (Birmingham Conference), died on November 30th; funeral services were held on December 4th; President Milton England and Elder George T. Harrison were the speakers and Elder Rulon L. Russon dedicated the grave.

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE CONFERENCES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN